1:Gabb N-5 (1873-1874) 1876
SA19 Talamanca SA19

of hygiene, and the universal negligence of the sick, on the part of the well, all contribute to shorten the average lifeterm of the people, so that very few old men or women are to be found, and the mortality is so great among the young that the deaths more than counterbalance the births. Unless some great change takes place, the whole of the tribes of Talamanca will have disappeared within two or three generations more. The Tribis, who like the others have strict rules about marriage, within certain degrees of consanguinity, are now so reduced that several young men and women are to-day forced to remain unmarried for want of proper mates sufficiently removed in relationship. But at the beginning of this century they were powerful enough to give battle to the Bri-bris. The Changinas and Shelabas have disappeared and the fate of the other tribes requires no prophet to foretell.

Physically, the people of all the tribes bear a strong resemblance to each other. They are of short stature, broad shouldered, heavily built, full in the chest, with well-formed limbs, and well muscled throughout. Their color is similar to that of the North American Indians, or, if anything different, perhaps a little lighter. There seems to be but little, if any admixture of foreign blood among them. Their history would hardly lead us to expect it. They have lived very exclusively, and it has hardly been half a century since they have ceased to live in a state of open war with all intruders from the coast side. The Spanish occupation closed so disastrously over a century and a half ago, was of too short duration, and and the whites were too few, to make a permanent impression on a then populous country.

The following measurements taken from my servant, a full grown man, who is not more than an inch, if so much, under the average height, will give a fair idea of their build. He measures in height, 5 ft. 1½ in., circumference of chest, under the arms 35¾ inches; of hips 34 inches, of waist 33½ inches, length from axilla to tips of the fingers, 24½ inches; leg, from the groin to the ground, 39 inches. Both sexes are marked by an almost perfect absence of hair from all parts of the person except the head; where there is a dense growth of coarse, straight black hair. This the women plait with considerable taste. The men wear theirs cut moderately long and of an even length all round; or a few retaining an older fashion, have it a little over a foot long, apparently its entire natural length, and either let it stream loosely over the shoulders, gather it into two plaits, or twist it into a roll, bound with a strip of matate, and coiled at the back of the head in a round flat mass.

The breasts of the women are not conical, as occurs with many, if not most of the Indian races; but are fully as globular as those of the European or African. Nor are they directed laterally. They are not generally large, though some marked exceptions occur to this rule. But they have one strongly marked peculiarity. The entire areolar area is developed into a globular protuberance, completely enveloping and hiding the nipple. The development of this part begins with almost

1:Gabb N-5 (1873-1874) 1876
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142 before, that of the mammary gland proper, on the approach of puberty, and is more obvious then, than after the gland has acquired its full rotundity. After marriage, the areola gradually sinks, leaving the nipple standing out prominently in its centre.

128 In treating of the manners and customs of these people, I shall include the three tribes of Tiribi, Bri-bri, and Cabecar as one, and shall only mention them separately where points of difference occur. First in the order comes the birth of the young savage.

789 827 843 All the world, or rather all the ignorant world, and even a part of that which considers itself reasonably enlightened, entertains a belief in the influence on the child, of certain impressions made on the mother during pregnancy. Doubtless the general mental state of the mother has an influence on her progeny. But the belief exists among these Indians, in its full force, that the sight of certain objects by the mother will influence her child physically. They go further. The mother is given to wearing certain charms to that end. The eyes of the fish hawk give the future fisher the power to see his prey beneath the water; the teeth of the tiger (also worn by both sexes for purely ornamental purposes), when used as an amulet makes the future hunter swift and strong in the chase; the hairs of a horse make him strong to carry loads, and a piece of cotton pushed inside of her girdle by a white man, is certain to make the child of a lighter complexion.

844 [343] When the time of parturition approaches, the father goes into the woods and builds a little shed, at a safe distance from the house. To this the woman retires as soon as she feels the labor pains coming on. Here, alone and unassisted, she brings forth her young. Difficult delivery is as rare as among the lower animals. As soon as the delivery is effected, the mother of the woman, if present, and in her absence, some other old woman approaches the mother and, with great circumspection to avoid the defilement of *bu-ku-ru'*, of which I shall speak further on, places within her reach a piece of wild cane, so split as to make a rude knife. The mother ties the umbilical cord and severs it with this knife. No other kind is permitted. She is also supplied in the same manner with some tepid water in a folded plantain leaf, in which she washes the child. She then collects the after-birth, &c., and buries it, after which she goes to the nearest water and bathes herself. An *awa*, or medicine man then ap-

846 pears on the scene. He causes the mother to theoretically wash herself again, by dipping her fingers into a calabash of water, which he forthwith drinks. He then lights a pipe of tobacco, blowing the smoke over her. He then purifies himself by washing his hands, after which, and not before, all are permitted to return to the house. The recovery of the mother is so prompt that it may be more properly said, she has nothing to recover from. I have seen a young mother, with her first child not yet a week old, attending to her ordinary duties as if nothing had happened.

551 The matter of names is very loose and arbitrary. It is almost impossi-

5:Urcullu M-5 (1763) 1913
SA19 Talamanca SA19

ette.. These two bones are for the first death, and the others they get afterwards they keep on drilling the lower lip, into which they put two or more bones. They also bore the ears roundabout and in the holes they stick straws, like a large span set round with colored feathers; and all this is to show off their courage and excite fear. 304 554

The strangest thing in the mountain region of *Talamanca* is that the Indians of the *Zegua* tribe, who are upon the islands and shores of the North Sea, all or nearly all of them have a tail more than a third of a yard long; and doubtless on account of this monstrosity they do not mingle with the other tribes, but are only to be met with on the Island of *Thóxar*, whither the other tribes go to trade for cacao, the yield of which is there very good in quality and abundant. This island is very fertile and abounds in fruit, such as plantains and pineapples, etc., but as I am informed it is already deserted on account of the repeated invasions which have been made by the *Zambos* and *Mosquitos* in league with the English, who carry away the people to sell the men in *Jamaica* and making use of the women. The few that are left have withdrawn into the hills, where they have their settlements or *palenques*. * * * 142 [438] 166 648

As regards the number of the gentile Indians, living among those mountain regions of *Talamanca*, all that is known is that they are very numerous, as shown by the parts which have been subjected and the accounts of the Indians themselves, covering the lands they occupy. 161

As regards the work that has been done in those Missions it is to be noted that those tribes, if not all at least the three that are embraced under the name of *Thalamancas*, were conquered and paid their tribute generally in little nuggets of gold, of which there are records in the archives of the said city of *Cartago*. And in this College there is a copy of a document, from which it appears that in that province there was a city of Spaniards by the name of *"Santiago de Thalamanca,"* with its fort of *San Ildefonso*, but that the Indians rebelled and killed a great many people and they burned the city and destroyed everything. The city was founded on what they called the plains of *Thalamanca*, on the 175 648

6: Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962

SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri
Cabecar

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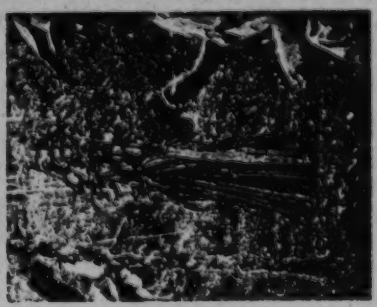

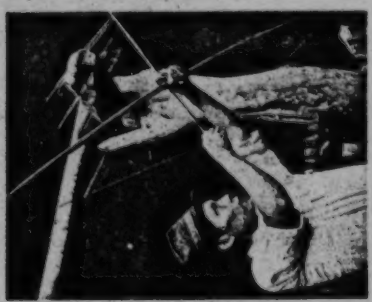

a, Method of shooting a bow and arrow. b, Shooting fish. c, Using a blow gun. d, Shelter for chickens.

[END Plate 2]

6: Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962

SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri
Cabecar

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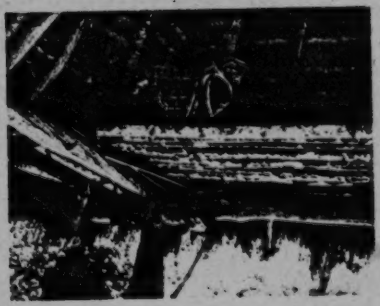

[142]

c-f, Details of interior roof walls in a Bribri house, Talamanca. d, Detail of wall construction, Cabécar house, Ujarrás.

[END PLATE 7]

6: Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962 SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri
Cabecar

142
291
301
302
[531]

a

b

[851]

c

d

a-b, Bribri women, Pacific slope. c, Cabécar women, lower Talamanca. d, Cabécar woman carrying baby, Chirripó.

[END PLATE 8]

6; Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962

SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri
Cabecar

142
291
302

a

b

[516
301
854]

c

d

a, Rebel man. b, Rebel woman. c, Cabécar woman and girl, Talamanca. Note Borucan coiffure on woman. d, Rebel family, Pacific slope.

[END PLATE 9]

6: Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962

SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri

142
302
291

a

b

142
302
291
854
231

d

c

a, Bribri boy. b, Bribri girl. c, Bribri mother and child, Pacific side. d, Bribri man.

[END PLATE 12]

6: Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962 SA19 Talamanca SA19

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291
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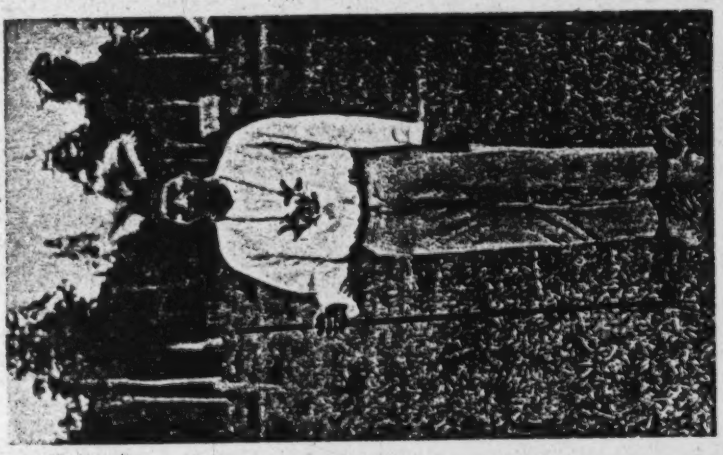
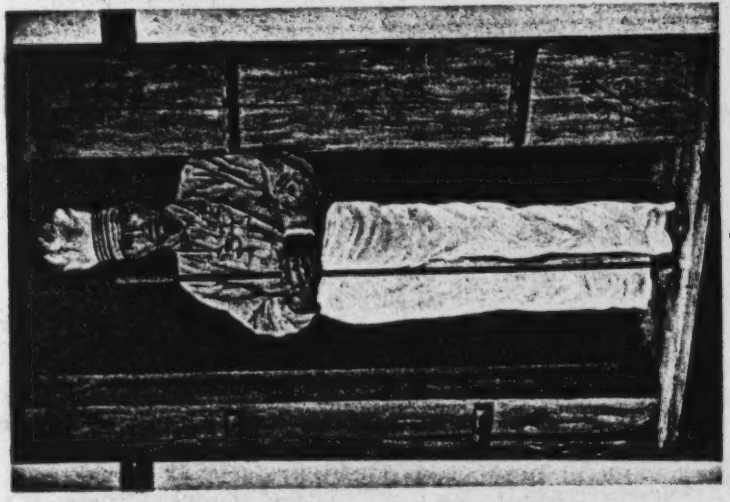
643
292





a, Oil painting of Antonio Saldaña, last King of Talamanca (courtesy of the National Museum of Costa Rica).
b, Photograph of Antonio Saldaña (*from* Fernández Guardia, 1911).

[END PLATE 13]

6: Stone E-5 (1956-1959) 1962 SA19 Talamanca SA19 Bribri

142
291
301
302

Bribri children from the Pacific slope at the school in Salitre. (Photographs courtesy of Ing. José Fabio Góngora.)

[END PLATE 14]